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THE SOLAR CORONA.

In the July number of *Himmel und Erde*, Dr. KOERBER, in a review of the magnetic and mechanical theories of the Solar Corona, seems to imply that what one theory lacks the other supplies.

In advance of the regular publication of my memoir on the "Mechanical Theory," I only wish to say here, that the exceptional phenomena which the magnetic theory apparently fails to account for are the strongest proofs of the mechanical theory, while the phenomenon of the *polar rays*, the strongest point in favor of the magnetic theory, is shown to be a necessary consequence of the perspective over-lapping and interlacing of the equatorial streamers projected at the poles. The position and varying inclination of the theoretical rays (which do not, as a rule, coincide with the streamers) are shown to coincide with the observed positions of the rays, thus doing away with the necessity of introducing forces of a magnetic character to account for certain phenomena. J. M. S.

GIFT OF AN ELECTRIC-LIGHTING PLANT TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY BY THE EDISON GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, OF ORANGE, NEW JERSEY.

The Lick Observatory has seriously felt the want of an electric-lighting plant to provide illumination for the circles of the great telescope, etc., etc. For some time past we have been in correspondence with the EDISON General Electric Company (through A. E. KENNELLY, Esq.) looking to supplying this lack. A plan for the outfit had been prepared and was under consideration when, on August 5th, we received a letter from Mr. KENNELLY to say that the EDISON Company had decided to offer to the Lick Observatory the complete plant of steam-engine and boiler, dynamo, belting, main wire, controlling wire, and a set of storage-cells in duplicate, the whole as a free gift. The Regents of the University of California gratefully accepted this unexpected and generous present at their meeting of September 4th.

And the astronomical staff of the Observatory desire to add their cordial recognition of this most valuable addition to the equipment of the institution. If there were any known way of presenting the freedom of the Observatory in a box to Mr. EDISON and to his co-adjutors, it would be instantly adopted. As it is, the grateful thanks of the Observatory are returned to them for their thoughtful and timely gift to science. E. S. H.